



APHIS

Plant Protection and Quarantine

# Pest Detection and Management Programs

Weekly Notice, June 30, 2003

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/>

## Emergency Programs

**Asian longhorned beetle** - On July 2, 2003, Secretary Charles Kuperus of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture and Commissioner Brad Campbell of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection are participating in a media event in Jersey City to highlight the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) program, the restoration activities, and to alert the public of ALB adult emergence.

The week of June 23, 2003, Otis Plant Methods Center treated about 800 ALB host trees in an operation pilot in Forest Park, Queens, NY, using pressurized trunk injection systems. This methodology has the potential for treatment application in other forest pest programs such as emerald ash borer.

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## Domestic Programs

**Noxious Weeds** - Jointvetch seed from Florida contaminated with Tropical soda apple (TSA) was planted in Arkansas prior to Florida discovering the contamination. The Western region is developing plans with Arkansas to monitor and treat potentially infested sites.

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**Sudden oak death** - The United Kingdom and Netherlands have identified two new plants as having been found associated with *P. ramorum* (Pr) in their countries. These latest add to a growing list of plant associations awaiting notification of completion of Koch's postulates and possible U.S. Federal regulation. The U.K. reported that they have added *Syringa* (lilac) to the list. Lilac is widely grown in yards and gardens and is a popular nursery plant. The Netherlands reports a new association, *Viburnum farreri* (fragrant

*Viburnum*). This brings to five the number of *Viburnums* identified as either hosts or as associations. This suggests that *Viburnums* are highly susceptible in nature and the question is being asked if *Viburnum* should be regulated at the generic level.

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**Soybean rust** - CPHST is focused on collecting the evidence needed to complete the PRA document for soybean rust (SBR) and anticipates having a draft for internal review by the end of June, 2003. (Source: H. El-Nashaar).

USDA-ARS has been making special efforts on developing rust resistant soybean cultivars as part of United Soybean Board sponsored grant by screening both domestic and exotic germplasm for rust resistance in its BSL-3 Containment Facility at Fort Detrick, MD. This screening includes not only *Glycine max* but also *G. soja* accessions. In addition, field trials have been set-up at six international locations (on three different continents) with USDA/ARS foreign collaborators. These six countries are: China & Thailand (Asia), South Africa & Zimbabwe (Africa), and Brazil & Paraguay (South America). Drs. Glen Hartman & Monte Miles, USDA/ARS, University of Illinois, are co-PI's with Dr. Reid Frederick, PI, USDA/ARS, Ft. Detrick, MD, on this project.

The United Soybean Board (USB) & American Soybean Association (ASA) meeting took place in Washington, DC, Marriott Hotel, June 24, 2003. Dr. Anwar Rizvi made a presentation and provided the audience with an overview about the National implications which soybean rust could have; why this disease is receiving so much attention from USDA-APHIS/ARS; what preparations at the National level are being made to combat this disease using a multiprong approach; and how USB and ASA can help in this effort.

**Japanese beetle** - First preseason Japanese beetle (JB) conference call was organized on Wednesday, June 18, 2003, and plans were discussed on how to proceed more effectively and efficiently with the JB issue during 2003



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season. The participants of the conference call agreed that a weekly conference call will be conducted every Wednesday at 1:00 P.M. EST till the middle of September, 2003, i.e. until the end of JB season. The second JB conference call was conducted on Wednesday, June 25, 2003.

The details were finalized for an upcoming field trip in order to review the needed preparations being made to combat with 2003 JB season at the regulated airports in Indiana and Ohio. Art Miller and Philip Bell (Eastern Region's JB Program Managers) and Roeland Elliston (Western Region's Program Manager) will be joining on these field visits.

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### Cotton Pest Programs

*Boll Weevil Eradication* — The post-eradication referendum in Mississippi's Region 1 (Delta area) did not receive the necessary 66.7% positive vote last week; about 57% of the votes were positive. Apparently, growers misunderstood the post-eradication assessment levels that were being proposed. Local grower organizations will clarify the situation, and a revote is expected later this summer. Nationwide, post-eradication referenda typically pass by more than 85%. Program officials in Mississippi are confident that the revote in Region 1 will be positive.

In Missouri last week, an unfortunate incident occurred when a contract helicopter hit a power line and crashed, killing the operator. Nationwide, several hundred contract aircraft operate each day. The risks are well understood, and mitigated to the degree possible.

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*Pink Bollworm Eradication* — A technical group toured early-season field operations near Las Cruces (NM), El Paso (TX), and northern Chihuahua (MX) last week. Dr. Bob Staten (CPHST), Osama El-Lissy (PDMP-Riverdale), Gary Carpenter (PPQ-WR), Frank Carter (National Cotton Council), Aaron Miller (PPQ-NM), Kerry Bryan (PPQ-NM), Nick Gutierrez (IS-DC), Tom

Andre (IS-MX), and Ted Boratynski (PPQ-WR) joined with local program managers to assess the program's progress. The group reviewed trapping, data management, and control activities, and were reminded by local grower leaders that they are expecting sterile moths in 2004. Overall, the eradication program is going well in all three regions of the program area.

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*Incident Command System* - A two day introductory course on the Incident Command System was held in Riverdale, June 24 – 25, 2003, and attended by nine PPQ personnel charged with the development of plans for ICS implementation. The Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute (MFRI) presented the course which had custom designed test exercises for agricultural "incidents". Attendees evaluated the course as quite useful and instructive.

A nine member ICS Implementation Team, comprised of representatives from staff and field, met in Riverdale on June 26 to further plans and procedures for handling "incidents" in PPQ. Among the items approved were field-oriented draft position descriptions for "Regional Emergency Coordinators."

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